



NEWS RELEASE

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09-010

**ANCHORAGE MAN SENTENCED FOR
CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MONEY LAUNDERING**

Anchorage, Alaska – Acting United States Attorney Karen Loeffler announced that on February 3, 2009, Bret W. Hendren, a resident of Anchorage, Alaska, was sentenced in federal court in Anchorage to 10 months of confinement and a \$6,000 fine on charges of conspiracy to commit money laundering involving property in excess of \$10,000. The court ordered Hendren to serve five months in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, followed by five months of home confinement, and ordered him to serve a two-year period of supervised release following his confinement.

Chief United States District Court Judge John W. Sedwick sentenced Hendren, age 46.

In connection with the October guilty plea, Assistant United States Attorney Frank Russo advised the court that in or about March 2005, Thomas Raney asked the defendant to purchase a Kibbi, LLC, 2005 Renegade Motorhome, as well as a Kibbi Enclosed Trailer. The defendant made the purchases on behalf of Raney. Raney brought the defendant \$93,000 in cash as a down payment on the motorhome and the trailer, which the defendant deposited into a bank. Raney would then bring the defendant cash in approximately \$5,000 increments to pay for the motorhome and trailer. On one occasion the money that Raney brought the defendant smelled like marijuana. In total, the defendant accepted approximately \$150,000 in cash from Raney in payment for the motorhome and trailer. Raney is currently serving a 30-year sentence for his part in the related marijuana trafficking conspiracy.

Judge Sedwick advised the defendant, “When people are engaged in serious criminal activity, don’t help them out.” Hendren also forfeited his interest in the motorhome and the trailer to the United States.

“When you launder money, you are not only going to get caught and go to prison, you are also going to lose whatever financial gain you were seeking.” said Kenneth J. Hines, the IRS Special Agent in Charge of Alaska. “That makes money laundering a completely losing proposition.”

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service–Criminal Investigations, the Alaska State Troopers Major Offender’s Unit, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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